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Etymologisches Wörterbuch der romanischen Sprachen, von FRIEDR. DIEZ. Fünfte Ausgabe. Mit einem Anhang von AUGUST SCHELER. Bonn, Marcus, 1887.

This new edition of DIEZ's 'Wörterbuch' shows a much enlarged appendix, as was to be expected, and will be very useful. It is perhaps unfair to lay much stress on any lack of completeness, for completeness in such matters is, as we all know, very difficult. But it is surprising not to find any mention of THURNESEN's 'Keltoromanisches' under *andare* and in the same place a reference might have been given to the *Literaturblatt für germanische und romanische Philologie*, 1884, col. 104 (**indare* from *inde*). The latter omission is more excusable than the former, and indeed it appears from a hasty search that THURNESEN's book has entirely escaped SCHELER's notice, which is indeed surprising. At least I find no mention of it in several places where mention might be expected; for example, under *ambasciata*, *canicia*, *drudo*, *briser*, *lai*, *maint*, to mention a few examples out of many. CORNU's etymology of *bravo* (*Romania*, 1884, pp. 110-113) is also not mentioned. Under *foin* II. c, the appendix has the same surprising remark as in the last edition. If Latin *praeda* is really related to *prehendere* then a vulgar Latin *prêda* may not seem any stranger than *pre-* in the Latin verb. Of course French *proie* cannot have come from *praeda*.

E. S. SHELDON.

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Grundriss zur Geschichte der deutschen Dichtung aus den Quellen von KARL GOEDEKE. 2. Auflage. Dresden, Ls. Ehlermann. Bd. I-III, pp. viii, 500; iv, 600; viii, 384.

Among the representatives of German philology and literature who have recently died in such rapid succession, PROFESSOR KARL GOEDEKE held one of the foremost positions. Born in 1814 at Celle, he received his academic training at the University of Göttingen, where the influence of the Grimm brothers, Benecke, Gervinus, Otfried Müller and Dahlmann determined his future career. Even as a student he began making the collections which became the basis of his later famous works.

The time following his studies in Göttingen he devoted mostly to quiet literary activity; but he also took an active part in the political events which were then agitating Germany. Not until the year 1873 was he appointed Professor of the History of German Literature at the University of Göttingen, which position he held up to the time of his death, October 27, 1887. GOEDEKE's scientific activity was many-sided, though mostly directed to literary investigation, the results of which he did not withhold from the general public, being widely and favorably known as the editor of classical writers and the author of 'Goethe's Leben und Schriften.' By his clear and objective presentation of facts he marks a wholesome and pleasing contrast to the scientific journalism and subjective mannerism so fashionable of late.

The chief work of GOEDEKE's life is his celebrated 'Grundriss,' a *monumentum aere perennius* not only of himself but also of the scholarly industry of Germany. A few years before his death he prepared a second edition of it and succeeded in carrying this as far as the third volume, thus covering the literature to the close of the Seven Years' War. In many respects this second edition must be regarded as an entirely new work. The author has added a stupendous amount of material, thus creating an indispensable storehouse for the benefit of all future investigators. But it is not alone a book of reference: it equally excels in subtle observation and objective truthfulness—qualities which characterize all of GOEDEKE's writings. The publisher promises that the continuation of the second edition will cover the period down to the present time; and we hope that this excellent work will find its way not only into the libraries of our colleges and other public institutions but also into the private collections of many cultivated readers throughout the country.

JULIUS GOEBEL.

Complete German Manual for High Schools and Colleges by WESLEY C. SAWYER, PH. D., Chicago, 1887.

The book before us attempts to combine the "natural method" and the "grammar

method," and aids to subserve the ends of grammar, exercise-book, conversation-book and reader. Part I, Theory, is devoted to Pronunciation, Inflexion, Syntax, and Etymology; Part II, Practice, contains (1) Exercises for Writing and Oral Practice (2) German Correspondence (3) Continuous Reading and Conversation ('Joseph und Benjamin, nach einer Erzählung von BERTHOLD AUERBACH'). Then follow Remarks on Punctuation and Orthography, a list of Irregular Verbs, German-English and English-German Vocabularies, an Index and table of Conjugations and Declensions.

The manual under consideration is an attempt to supply the demands of the unorganized, or at best poorly systematized, method of teaching German in American Schools, and as such is in many respects an improvement upon not a few of the older manuals. But certain points of theory need comment. The author's theory of declensions, as applied to nouns, is quite out of harmony with the classification generally recognized in this country and in Germany. Whatever may be said of the terms "strong" and "weak," "old" and "new," as applied to nominal declension, they certainly are plain finger-boards to the student entering the historic study of German or Germanic grammar. This classification as applied by WHITNEY, BRANDT, MEISSNER and all of the best writers on German grammar is certainly more scientific and more simple than the arbitrary arrangement into the three declensions as given by DR. SAWYER: I. Containing feminines (both weak and strong); II. Containing masculines and neuters, ending in *-el*, *-er*, *-chen*, *-lein*; III. "The third declension includes all nouns not belonging in the first or second declension" (§181). Then follow "classes of masculines" belonging clearly to the weak declension (as the author's words indicate), which are not included "under the above three declensions... neither do they constitute a forth declension, but follow the masculine gender of the weak adjective declension" (§191). It must be apparent to the beginner, as well as to the author himself, that this classification is complicated and confused. If the nouns treated in this last-named class had been arranged under the weak declension of nouns, where they belong, it would not have

been necessary to treat them as intruders in nominal inflexion. Inasmuch as the author makes use of the terms "strong" and "weak" of adjective declension, would it not have been much more consistent,—especially as it is simpler,—to apply the same terms to nominal declension, and thus introduce the student at once to the classification and nomenclature which he will meet in all scientific works on German grammar?

In Part II, the promiscuous collation of examples from even the earliest period of N. H. G. literature is liable to lead the student to suppose that the speech of LUTHER is as good modern German as that of FREYTAG or HEYSE. It seems to us that for purposes of style much better results would be reached by putting the student on his guard to detect deviations from the modern idiom. The exercises for translation into German, though well selected, seem too varied. The great failure of most of the prose exercises in the books, is due to the indiscriminate jumble of incoherent sentences made to fit the rule under consideration. The student should be trained to think consecutively and logically in a foreign language as in his mother-tongue; a connected description or story can be made to illustrate a rule quite as efficiently as a series of disconnected sentences.

The vocabulary might have been rendered more serviceable by giving more of the important meanings of many words and by adding the *essential forms* (nom., gen. sg.; nom. pl.) of strong nouns.

Minor points to be noted are: §142 might be better stated by saying that variatives are formed by adding *lei* (= 'kind') to the genitive (for examples of the older use of this construction cf. M. H. G. "*einer leie volc*," where the forms are printed as separate words); §153 is not correct, inasmuch as the feminine derivatives in *t* are both numerous and monosyllabic. It is nouns formed on a simple *ab-laut stem* with *no derivative suffix* which are so generally masculine, while those which add the suffix *t* to this stem are regularly feminine. Examples are *der Zug* (<ziehen) but *die Zucht* (<Zug+t, g> ch before t), *der Schlag* (<schlagen) but *die Schlacht*, (<Schlag+t); §155 *der Reichtum*, *der Irrtum* are exceptions; §159 has received fuller treatment in AHN'S

'Synopsis of German grammar' §108, BRANDT'S 'German Grammar' §§58, WILMANN'S 'Deutsche Grammatik,' Zweiter Teil §88; §178, add *der gefalle, der Schade*; §212 cf. WILMANN'S 'D. Gram.' Zweiter Teil §90, 2; §274, *ward=wurde* etc. should be mentioned at least in a note; §365-369 are not explicit and full enough for the average beginner, cf. WILMANN'S 'D. Gram.' Zweiter Teil §122-127 for a clearer treatment. The paragraphs on Prepositions and Word-Order are too scanty to be of much service to the student: BRANDT'S Ger. Gram.' §301-306 is very happy in giving well chosen examples of prepositional construction. A judicious use of the chapters in other grammars referred to above would have greatly enhanced the value of DR. SAWYER'S manual. In thus pointing out what seems to us defects in the manual we would not forget to mention some of its excellencies as well. Excepting the paragraphs already commented upon, the general plan of the book is well adapted to college use. The principles are concisely stated, the examples happily chosen and sufficiently diversified to familiarize the student with the essentials of German syntax. The German sentences of Part II are certainly a vast improvement upon the stilted manufacture of most of the exercise-books. The student is here encouraged to collect gems of literature rather than to build rugged sentences out of conventional phrases. The chapter on Correspondence is good as far as it goes, but too short to teach letter-writing. DR. SAWYER evidently intended that his manual should be used as a book for practice and not for scientific theory, and hence omitted many points which the student would like to have explained, as, for example, *umlaut* and *ablaut*. But American education is too dependent upon the text-book. The success of a text-book depends upon the teacher not less than upon the author of the book. DR. SAWYER'S manual, in the hands of efficient instructors, can be readily supplemented at these weaker points. It is to be hoped that this work will bring us a step farther toward a more thorough and scientific study of the German language and literature in our higher schools.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

Kindly allow me to explain myself. PROF. COOK, in MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES, III, 5, 277, quotes me as saying—"The scribe of the Lindisfarne MS. never employs the letters *v* or *j*." He then proceeds to quote the word *onginnvum* as occurring in a gloss.

What I had in my mind was this. I was thinking of the original scribe of the Lindisfarne MS., who wrote that MS. *in Latin*; and I do not remember that he anywhere uses either *v* or *j*. As to what the *glossator* wrote, I make no assertion at all. I meant my statement to be taken in connection with the context. I go on to say that "the former edition has *v* and *j* throughout, wherever the *u* and *i* of the MS. have consonantal values." This refers only to the Latin text. I admit I was obscure; but that is all.

WALTER W. SKEAT.

BRIEF MENTION.

In the great mass of mediæval Provençal lyric are found the names and works of not a few poetesses, who have hitherto been known mainly through their literary relations with contemporary Troubadours. The gallantry of a student of Romance poetry has rescued them from this inferior station and has placed them before the modern public in a compact and convenient form ('Die Provenzalischen Dichterinnen,' O. Schultz: Leipzig 1888, 4to). In the introduction to their biographies and writings the editor sketches the rise of woman in society and hence in literature. He finds in the other languages of Western Europe but few representatives of the sex before the fourteenth century, and attributes to the peculiar institutions of Provence the prominence which they there attain. Between the years 1160 and 1250 no less than twenty-one lyric poetesses appear, some few of whom are known only by name. The biographies of the greater number, sixteen in all, as given by Dr. Schultz, can be determined only approximately, and mainly by the allusions to them in contemporary literature. Their works, amounting to twenty-two poems, with four doubtful, are in this study all edited critically for the first time